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Programme planning

Report of the Fifth Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2008, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled "Programme planning" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 7th and 23rd. meetings, on 15 October and 15 December 2008. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/63/SR.7 and 23).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its forty-eighth session (A/63/16);

(b) Proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011: part one: plan outline (A/63/6 (Part one)) and part two: biennial programme plan (A/63/6 (Prog.1-16, 17 and Corr.1, 18-22, 23 and Corr.1 and 24-27));

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2006-2007 (A/63/70).

4. At the 7th meeting, on 15 October 2008, the Chairman of the Committee for Programme and Coordination introduced the report of the Committee (see A/C.5/63/SR.7).

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II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.4

5. At its 23rd meeting, on 15 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Programme planning" (A/C.5/63/L.4), submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.4 without a vote (see para. 7).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

7. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Programme planning

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 37/234 of 21 December 1982, 38/227 A of 20 December 1983, 41/213 of 19 December 1986, 55/234 of 23 December 2000, 56/253 of 24 December 2001, 57/282 of 20 December 2002, 58/268 and 58/269 of 23 December 2003, 59/275 of 23 December 2004, 60/257 of 8 May 2006, 61/235 of 22 December 2006 and 62/224 of 22 December 2007,

Recalling also the terms of reference of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, as outlined in the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976,

Having considered the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its forty-eighth session,[1] the proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011: part one: plan outline[2] and part two: biennial programme plan,[3] and the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2006-2007,[4]

1. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2006-2007, contained in chapter II, section A, of its report on the work of its forty-eighth session,[1] and on the proposed biennial programme plan for the period 2010-2011, contained in chapter II, section B;

2. *Decides* that the priorities for the period 2010-2011 shall be the following:

(a) Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences;

(b) Maintenance of international peace and security;

(c) Development of Africa;

(d) Promotion of human rights;

(e) Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts;

(f) Promotion of justice and international law;

(g) Disarmament;

(h) Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/63/16).

[2] A/63/6 (Part one).

[3] A/63/6 (Prog 1-16, 17 and Corr.1, 18-22, 23 and Corr.1 and 24-27).

[4] A/63/70.

3. *Stresses* that setting the priorities of the United Nations is the prerogative of the Member States, as reflected in legislative mandates;

4. *Also stresses* the need for Member States to participate fully in the budget preparation process, from its early stages and throughout the process;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 on the basis of the above priorities and the biennial programme plan as adopted in the present resolution;

6. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on evaluation, contained in chapter II, section C, of its report; on the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, contained in chapter III, section A; on the New Partnership for Africa's Development, contained in chapter III, section B; and on improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate, contained in chapter IV;

7. *Reaffirms* the role of the Committee for Programme and Coordination in monitoring and evaluation, and recalls paragraph 11 of its resolution 62/224;

8. *Recognizes* the importance of continuing to improve the log frame, and in this regard encourages programme managers to further improve the qualitative aspects of indicators of achievement in order to enable better evaluation of results, bearing in mind the importance of defining the indicators in a way that ensures their clear measurability;

9. *Reaffirms* the role of the Committee for Programme and Coordination as the main subsidiary organ of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for planning, programming and coordination, recalls regulation 5.6 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation,[5] and emphasizes that the Committee for Programme and Coordination should enhance its coordination role in order to increase planning efficiency and effectiveness so as to continue to ensure the timeliness of the implementation of, and prevent duplication and redundancy in, the actions of the Organization;

10. *Welcomes* the progress made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination in improving its working methods and procedures within the framework of its mandate, as well as the Committee's decision to remain seized of the matter.

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[5] ST/SGB/2008/8.